



Timothy Blubaugh, P.E.
Sr. Development Engineer
Safety Regulations

July 23, 2001

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Ms. Marlene Vorhees
ArvinMeritor
2135 W. Maple Rd.
Troy, MI 48084

Ms. Vorhees:

Freightliner LLC is presently in the process of implementing a safety recall of vehicles that may contain certain Model 20-EDL ball sockets manufactured by TRW. As you know, many of these ball sockets were supplied to Freightliner on ArvinMeritor axles. This latest recall (FL-383) broadens the scope of an earlier recall affecting vehicles built with 20-EDL ball sockets (FL-268).

Consistent with ArvinMeritor's notice of June 27, 2001 to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, Freightliner is recalling (FL-383) vehicles built with Model 20-EDL ball sockets with the following manufacturing date codes: 9F2, 9F3, 9F4, 9K1, 9K2, 9K3, 9K4, 0E3, 0E4, 0E5, and 0F1. For reference, the previous recall (FL-268) affected vehicles built with Model 20-EDL ball sockets with 9G1, 9G2, 9G3, 9G4, 9H1, 9H2, 9H3, 9H4, 9J1, 9J2, 9J3, and 9J4 date codes.

According to TRW notifications to NHTSA, the 20-EDL ball sockets involved in both recalls may "prematurely wear because of less than desired socket bearing case depth and hardness." Very recently, Freightliner has become aware of four additional reported separations of front axle tie rod 20-EDL ball sockets manufactured with date codes 9L1 and 0D3. Since these date codes are not included in either recall, Freightliner is concerned about the limited scope of the expanded recall and whether the criteria applied are appropriate.

The 20-EDL ball sockets were in production for approximately fifteen months. To date, recalls have been initiated affecting seven months of this production. The recent separations affect two additional months. Considering these facts, and our own engineering and test department assessments, Freightliner is concerned about the integrity of the 20-EDL design. Model 20-EDL ball sockets with varying hardness exhibit premature failures, even when manufactured within TRW's design specifications.

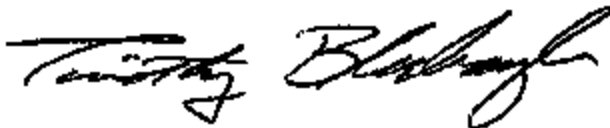
Marlene Vorhees

Page 2

Please advise whether you consider the TRW 20-EDL ball socket problems to be exclusively contained within the identified date codes, or whether the scope should be further expanded to include more, if not all, date codes. Also, please provide ArvinMeritor's opinion of the integrity of the 20-EDL design, independent from the manufacturing variances that affect bearing hardness and/or case depth.

I look forward to your prompt reply.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Timothy Blubaugh". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Timothy" and last name "Blubaugh" clearly distinguishable.

Timothy Blubaugh

Cc: Gary Rossow
Larry Winslow
Dan Fuchs
Tony Moore
James Jacobson
David Hobson (TRW)
Jon White (NHTSA)
Bill Leasure (TMA)



Forest River, Inc.

3010 College Ave., P.O. Box 124, Goshen, Indiana 46527 • 219-533-5934 • Fax 219-533-6085

Mrs. Kelly Schuler
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
Office of Defects Investigation
400 Seventh Street, SW NSA-11
Washington, DC 20590

11/14/01

573 REPORT

Dear Kelly:

Referencing recall campaign #00V 246.001

Our Engineering office has recently been notified that Freightliner LLC is involved in a recall of a number of chassis that may have problems with the TRW Ball Stud and Socket Assemblies - Expanded (Tie Rod Ends). Our company purchases chassis from Freightliner for use in the motorhomes that we manufacture.

I have contacted Freightliner LLC

Freightliner LLC
P.O. Box 4090
Portland, OR 97208-4090
800.547.0712 Phone

They have stated that they will be doing the notification of dealers and purchasers of all of our motorhomes involved in this recall. We have provided them with lists of vehicle VIN numbers with corresponding dealer names. We have provided them with a dealer list with addresses and phone numbers.

Freightliner states that there are nearly 50,000 vehicles involved in the recall. Of those, only 8 were purchased by Forest River, Inc. All but 1 of those chassis have been delivered to dealerships. We are in the process of having the 1 chassis that we still have in our possession repaired to the recall specifications.

Please feel free to contact me if you require any further information.

Sincerely

Brian Simmons
Director of Engineering
Forest River, Inc.
Cardinal Division
58277 St. Rd. 19 S
Elkhart, IN 46517
219-296-7700

"The Two Forests of Forest River... Forming Relationships with Nature"